REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this Amendment, the application included claims 1-19 and 21-25. A Final Office Action mailed May 27, 2005, rejected claims 10-12, 15, 17-21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,014,700 to Bainbridge et al. ("Bainbridge"). Claims 1-8, 13, 14, 22, 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bainbridge in view of US Patent No. 6,018,805 to Ma et al. ("Ma"). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bainbridge in view of Ma as applied to claim 1, and further in view of US Patent No. 6,704,692 to Banerjee et al. ("Banerjee"). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bainbridge as applied to claim 10 in view of Banerjee.

An Amendment after final was filed July 27, 2005, amending claims 10 and 17 and canceling claim 20. An Advisory Action mailed August 12, 2005 entered the August 27, 2005 amendments but maintained the rejections of claims 1-19 and 21-25. A Notice of Appeal was filed October 27, 2005.

This Amendment amends claims 1, 10, 11, 17 and 21, and cancels claims 2, 5, 18, 20 and 24. Hence, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-17, 21-25 remain pending.

Claim Amendments

Claims 10 and 17 were amended to recite elements similar to those in claim 1. In addition, claims 1 and 10 each were amended to include elements previously recited by claims 2 and 5, and claim 17 was amended to include elements previously recited by claims 18, 19 and 24. Accordingly, claims 2, 5, 18, 19 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Further, claim 10 has been amended to indicate that requests are passed from the client program "to the selected object," and to indicate that objects may be resident on "one or a plurality" of computers. Claim 10 also has been amended to remove the phrase "for the function" from the phrase "a distributor program for receiving requests for the function and for selecting between the first and second objects" Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the distributor "program" balances access, to maintain proper antecedent basis from claim 10.

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Interview Summary

The applicants gratefully thank the Examiner for her courtesy in conducting the recent interview. As discussed in the interview, it is believed that the amendments to the pending claims successfully distinguish the claims from the cited references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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